SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1896.

The Right Thing to Do.

The best way for Congress to deal with the dispute with Mr. CLEVELAND as to the authority of Congress to recognize the independence of Cuba, is to adopt the Cameron resolutions, which provide for the recognition of Cuba's independence.

This ought to be done before the brief pe riod remaining to the present Congress shall be frittered away in debate over a number of the provisions in the United States Constitution.

The enemies of Cuban recognition in the Senate and in the House can keep up a debate in regard to these provisions for months running. Secretary OLNEY can hold argument about them so long as be stays in office. Mr. CLEVELAND can trifle with them till the end of his term.

When the Cameron resolutions shall be passed by both houses of Congress transmitted to the Executive, and then, if it be necessary, passed over his veto by the requisite majority, there will be time for argument upon those passages of the Constituation which are the subject of controversy. The circumstances will then be more favorable for a polemic upon them.

When the resolutions have passed through their final stage in Congress, we shall see in a few days what Mr. CLEVELAND will do about them.

We shall also probably see the correctness of the judgment of Prime Minister Canovas, when he recently declared through that trustworthy organ of his Ministry, the Epoca of Madrid, that the "passage of the Cameron resolutions would not be the cause of serious perturbation in Spain."

The Alleged Warning to the United States.

Sometimes the bogus news concocted for stock-rigging purposes is ingenious and plausible, but this can hardly be said of the despatch from Paris to the London Times conveying the would-be startling information that the European powers have informed our Government that they "could not remain impassive" in the event of the United States abandoning the attitude of President CLEVELAND and his Cabinet with regard to Cuba. The attitude from which. according to this sapient correspondent, we must not depart is that of stiff-backed refusal to recognize the Cuban revolutionists either as belligerents or as an independent republic, although both houses of Congress should request such recognition.

There might have been something specious in this roorback had it been started in the year 1822 instead of 1896. In the former year Russia, Austria, Prussia, and France agreed at the Congress of Verona upon armed intervention in Spain for the purpose of overthrowing the liberal Constitution recently adopted in that country and restoring the despotism of FERDINAND VII. It had also been notorious for upward of a twelvemonth that the same powers were considering the expediency of helping Spain with their fleets and armies to recover her American possessions. Under those circumstances it would have surprised nobody had the four powers, linked together in the miscalled "Holy Alliance," intimated that they "could not remain impassive" should the United States recognize the independence of the Spanish-American revolutionists. Their feeling on the subject was well known: but a knowledge of the feeling did not prevent President MONROE from sending to Congress on March 8, 1822, a special message recommending that the independence of certain Spanish-American provinces should be recognized, and that appropriations should be made for the maintenance of envoys accredited to the new republics. In 1823 an impressive demonof the relictionary purposes of the Holy Alliance was afforded by the despatch of a French army into Spain, which in six months overran the country and abolished its parliamentary institutions. This army remained in Spain until 1827, and a part or all of it might have been transferred to Spanish-America. Such a transfer was contemplated, and it was in the teeth of that contingency that President MONROE sent to Congress his seventh annual message, in which he made the memorable announcement of the so-called Monroe doctrine. Therein, as it will be remembered, he told the Continental powers that "with the American Governments who had declared their independence and maintained it, and whose independence we had, on great consideration and on just principles, acknowledged, we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them or controlling in any other manner their destiny by any European power, in any other light than as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States." Inasmuch as CANNING made a similar protest on behalf of the British Government, and as England and the United States between them could easily control the sea, the Continental powers thought better of their intention to assist Spain in subjugating her revolted colonies. President MONROE, accordingly, was able to say a year later: "It is impossible for the European Governments to interfere in the concerns [of our American neighbors] especially in those which are vital, without affecting us; indeed. the motives which might induce such interference in the present state of the war between the parties, would appear to be equally applicable to us. It is gratifying to know that some of the powers with whom we enjoy a very friendly intercourse, and to whom these views have been communicated, have appeared to acquiesce in them." If such acquiescence in the declared will of the American people was deemed expedient when the United States had only about 10,000,000 inhabitants, it is preposterous to assume with the Paris correspondent of the Times that any of the Continental

seventy millions. As President MONROE pointed out in his first annual message, the United States, "through every stage of the conflict" between Spain and her American colonies, had maintained an impartial neutrality between the combatants, regarding the contest as a "civil war" and recognizing the revolutionists as belligerents. Mr. CLEVELAND might have given like recognition to the Cubans a year ago and not a word of protest would have been uttered by any European power. No word of protest could be uttered, in view of the fact that at the outset of our own civil war, before the first battle of Bull Run was fought, when it was as yet undetermined whether the civil war, then threatened, would not be over in ninety days, England, France, and Spain recognized the Confederates as bellig-

powers would undertake to browbeat or

coerce us now when our population exceeds

and of the precedents made by our treatment of other Spanish-American revolution ists, no possible objection can be made to the recognition of Cubans as belligerents except apon the score of our own selfish interests t being true, of course, that a declaration of neutrality would expose our vessels to the exercise of the right of search by Spain. This was as true a year ago as it is now but seeing that for a twelvemonth longer the Cubans have proved their ability to withstand the whole might of Spain, it seems that equity requires us to go one step further, and formally recognize the independence which the Cubans have shown themselves qualified to maintain. That in resence of such a recognition on our part the Continental powers "could not remain impassive" is a ridiculous assumption when we remember that they remained impassive enough in 1892, when at one stroke President MONROE saw fit to recognize the independence of a number of Spanish-American republics.

The silly despatch from Paris to the London Times takes for granted that the Triple Alliance and the Franco-Russian League, whose interests are irreconcilable, would make common cause for the purpose of supporting Spain, which they care nothing about, and of hectoring the United States, the good will of which is coveted by both coalitions. The notion that France would act in such a manner without the Czar's consent and that the Czar would sanction an attempt to bully the United States, may be said to cap the climax of absurdity.

The Third Party in the Case.

There is another party besides Mr. CLEVE-LAND and Prime Minister CANOVAS DEL CASTILLO who must take part in any negotiations for the ending of the war in Cuba. Whatever may be said by CLEVELAND and CANOVAS, there is a Government of the republic of Cuba which commands the loyalty of a revolutionary army, at once powerful and warlike. This is a party that must be consulted by the Spanish Government and by the American President before either of them can do anything to bring about the pacification of Cuba. This third party is a very important one, and is not to be neglected by the two other parties. They must ascertain upon what terms the party of the third part would be willing to make peace. They could not consummate or execute any plan for the settlement of the troubles in Cuba until the consent of the revolution was obtained. This is a serious matter, one not to be slighted.

Mr. CLEVELAND tells us in his message, as he had previously told Spain's Premier, upon what terms he would like to have the Cuban war brought to an end. It is his opinion that Spain ought to grant "home rule" to Cuba, and he makes the observation that "no reason is perceived why it should not be approved by the insurgents. He informs us that an intimation of this kind was communicated by him to Spain some months ago.

But then suppose that the third party in the case does not agree with this superannuated opinion ! Suppose that Cuba would not accept any measure of "home rule" that could be granted to her by Spain under the Spanish system of government? Suppose that the revolutionary patriots in arms were to refuse to assent to the existence of Spanish rule in their country, under any promise from Spain? Here, indeed, would be trouble for both of the other parties. What could be done next in pursuance of the negotiations between Mr. CLEVELAND and Spain? We learn from CLEVELAND'S message that no definite response to his proposition has been received from Premier Canovas, though some months have passed since it was made, perhaps as many as six or eight months. Possibly Spain is thinking of it. Spanish fashion, while its author says he maintains an "expectant attitude!"

We may next take notice of Premier CANOVAS'S plan for the ending of the war. We learn from Mr. CLEVELAND'S message that it begins with "unconditional surer on the part of the insurgent Cube We have learned from Sefior Canovas that the war against Cuba will be carried on with all the resources of Spain until the rebels lay down their arms, and, after they have done that, it will be time to grant such reforms as his Government may consider necessary. The Premier has repeated these statements officially many times this year. He will make no terms with rebels in arms. Here again, as it will be observed. there is trouble of a serious kind for more than one of the parties.

For, suppose that the Cuban Government and army shall decline to surrender, unconditionally or otherwise? Suppose that President CISNEROS-BETANCOURT should refuse to listen to the Canovas proposition, as to that of Mr. CLEVELAND? Suppose that Gen. GOMEZ and the revolution should turn a deaf ear to the Spanish Premier's demand, and tell him that his "reforms" would be worthless, even if they were ever granted? What next would the Premier do in pursuance of his uncompromising policy? We do not see that there is any prospect of putting an end

to the war in CANOVAS's way. So, then, after all, the third party cannot be overlooked in any negotiations with Spain into which Mr. CLEVELAND may desire to enter. CLEVELAND may draw up one plan and Canovas another; but if Cuba rejects each of the inappropriate plans proposed for her acceptance, both of the other

parties will be out in the cold. It is a war for independence in which Cuba has been engaged for the past two years. It is a revolution with which Spain is contending. It is freedom from Spanish rule, not any promise of "reform" under that rule, for which the heroic armies of the young republic are in the field. They are filled with determination. They are emboldened by the successes they have won. The thought of compromise under CLEVELAND's plan, or of surrender under Canovas's plan, has no place in their mind. With them, it is a battle to the death; and there can be no peace in Cuba until freedom shall be crushed in its own ruins, or until independence shall be won by revolution.

The New Reservoir Site Law. To a large portion of our country, the part which philosophically and fortunately takes a pride in calling itself "Arid America," the question of irrigation is perhaps the most important one it has to consider. In fact, its progress and its very existence depend on the solution of this problem. Happily, there is no grumbling there over the unequal climatic conditions of the different sections of the country, nor over the fact that the rain so rarely falls either on the just or the unjust. The people take to ditching and to bringing the water to their farms by more or less expensive processes, and when they find their labors rawarded by harvests remarkable in abun-

erents. In the light of the law of nations | dance and quality, they have a kind of pity

for what they call "the rain-fall States." An important law to aid these arid regions has just been enseted by Congress. It was passed by the Senate at the last session, and the House has now concurred in it. The bill provides that any person or live stock or transportation company engaged in breeding, grazing, driving, or transporting live stock, may construct reservoirs upon unoccupied public lands of the United States, not mineral or otherwise reserved, for the purpose of furnishing water to such live stock, and shall have control of such reservoirs, and of lands adjoining, to the extent of not more than 160 acres. The control is subject to rules made by the Interior Department and is to last while water is kept in the reservoir. The reservoir must not be fenced in, but must be

open to any one for the watering of animals. The necessity for this law is found in the fact that in the high lands of the Northwest, where water is scarce, after such reservoirs and dams are constructed, the land is now subject to homestead entry or settlement, so taking away from the persons who have built the reservoirs all the benefits they hoped for. This new bill does not give title to the reservoir lands, but it will practically operate, for the present, to keep them from settlement by others, yet only on condition of opening these valuable reservoirs and dams to the public use. The reservoirs cannot be put on public lands reserved for other uses.

Altogether the law seems to be a good one, and should have the effect of increasing the number of temporary watering places for cattle that graze or are driven upon the plains.

Canada Takes Some Islands.

Canada has recently divided that part of her vast landed estate lying mainly north of white settlements into five districts. The name Franklin will be spread on her maps all over the Arctic islands north of the continent. Ungava takes in all of Labrador except the coast fringe, which is Newfoundland's stamping ground. Then there is Yukon, where real estate is more or less sprinkled with gold; Mackenzle, bisected by Canada's biggest river, and Keewatin, the district organized some years ago west of Hudson Bay. Its boundaries were then defined so as to include most of the northern caribon, and, as it is now extended to the Arctic Ocean, its population is increased by nearly all the musk oxen.

It is not likely to be regarded as a comus belli, but the fact is that Canada has gathered into her grabnet some of our islands. Her only title to extend the name Franklin over the Arctic Archipelago rests upon the British exploration of that part of the world during the search for Sir John FRANKLIN. Well, we took part in that search ourselves, and made some discoveries of our own; and if we do not raise the Stars and Stripes over the lands we discovered and named, it is not because our title is clouded, but because we are willing Canada should jump the claim if she can get any fun out of it.

A large island in the Parry Archipelago was discovered on Sept. 21, 1850, by the first Grinnell expedition, which had been fitted out by HENRY GRINNELL, the first President of the American Geographical Society, to take part in the Franklin search. It was named Grinnell, Island "in honor of the head and heart of the man in whose philanthropic mind originated the idea of this expedition, and to whose munificence it owes its existence.

In 1853 HENRY GRINNELL and GEORGE PEABODY sent out Dr. KANE to search for FRANKLIN in the direction of Smith Sound. He was the first explorer to pass through that strait, to cross Kane Sea, and ascend Kennedy Channel; and the long western coast which he surveyed far north to Carl Ritter Bay he named Grinnell Land. 'Mr. GRINNELL," he wrote in his book, with a liberality altogether characteristic, had placed the Advance at my disposal for the cruise."

They were American eyes, too, and the region they revealed was named Grant Land

by Dr. BESSELS of the Polaris expedition. These interesting though remote and chilly parts of the world which we discovered are well sprinkled with American names, including that of Judge CHARLES P. DALY, the honored President of the American Geographical Society, to show that we have been there. Canada has carefully defined the eastern boundary of Franklin so as to include them all.

This shows how much better it would be for all concerned for Canada to be a part of the North American Union, with all questions of boundary permanently swept away.

The Poor and the Rich.

We publish elsewhere a letter from a 'Poor Man" in which heartlessness is attributed to THE SUN because it has asked what are the wrongs of the poor man about which we hear so much. Our correspondent does not specify any

such wrongs, except by implying that the wrongs of the poor are sentimental; are offences against his sensibility and selfrespect. "Wherever the poor man goes, except in Roman Catholic churches," he says, "he is unwelcome." Even if that were true, it would not be a wrong inflicted on the poor man. It would only be incivility at most, and it might not be even that. A cordial welcome is a free will offering. You cannot exact welcome from other people, for if it is compulsory it is not welcome. You can compel respect, but you cannot force love and affection. If, too, there is no society to which a man is welcome, it is obvious that he does not deserve the greeting. If a man has no friends, there must be something wrong in himself rather than in his treatment by other people. Moreover, a man, whether he is rich or poor, has a right to choose his own friends. Kindness, humanity, consideration, are a general obligation; friendship and intimate social intercourse are no man's right, but are privileges received by him, whose grant is wholly within the discretion of the inalienable and uncontrollable inclination of every individual. The old proverb, kissing goes by favor, expresses a liberty in friendship, affection, and familiar association of which nobody can be rightfully deprived, and which is exercised by every human heart instinctively and independently. Every man has a right to choose his own company; and if he gets into company in which he is not wanted, he has no reason to complain because he is unwelcome. People choose their company according to their likes and dislikes; but who is there that has not somebody to like him? If a man cannot get a welcome in one place, are there not other places where his presence brings pleasure? Is there not as much affection among the poor as among the rich? Of all the blessings enjoyed by men and women, what else is

so universal and so impartial in its distribu-

tion as love and affection? It is not true, however, that the poor are unwelcome in Protestant churches. Nothing would more rejoice the Protestant pastors than to see their churches crowded with the poor of whom our correspondent speaks. Their main effort is to attract those poor; and so far as they are unable to draw them into their churches, they feel that they lay themselves open to reproach. The Protestant parishes of this city are all strenuous in their endeavors to gain the favor of the poor; eager to welcome them. Sometimes they even go so far as to hunt them up and almost pay them for attending their services. No poor man is ever unwelcome in a Protestant church, no matter how fashionable it may be. If he keeps away, it is because the church is distasteful to him, not he unwelcome to it.

Who are the poor? Ours correspondent says that "one-half the people in the larger towns get their living and their wealth by preying on the other half." But that cannot be so, because the rich are not one-half of the people; they are not a tenth part of them; are hardly a hundredth part. It may be said that everybody preys on his fellows. He gets as much as he can from them for his labor, his services, his goods, or the use of his possessions. Only paupers, who prefer to be drones living on charity, are outside of that competition. All men who have to work for their living are poor. Only those who have accumulated fortunes, whose income makes them independent of such labor, are rich; and even the rich must struggle to keep their riches.

The number of the rich, then, is so small comparatively that the community generally may be said to be poor; hence if the poor suffer wrongs, nearly all society is wronged. But who wrongs them? Who wrongs those who are born amid surroundings of hardship? And by whose partiality are a few born amid wealth and its opportunities? Who makes some children congenital cripples, weaklings, de fectives, while others come into the world with strong minds and bodies? Who is responsible for the inheritance of the instinct of acquisitiveness and aptitude for accumulation by one man, and for the inheritance of a thriftless disposition by another?

Our correspondent's cry is an impotent cry against nature and the laws of the universe. It is GoD against Whom he brings his bitter accusation.

A Grand Old Man.

WESTON, at the age of 58, and whiteheaded, performed a feat last night which more than one member of his profession have failed in when blooming with youth Twenty-six years ago, or at the age of 83, he not much more than missed it in his attempt to cover 100 miles in twenty-four hours. He finished handily then, as they say, but at about the middle of his task the outlook was very doubtful. He failed yesterday to accomplish what he set out to do, but he made a great performance nevertheless, going more than 108 miles in less than twenty-four hours. Considering these two achievements only, we should have to conclude that WESTON is better at about sixty than he was when thirty.

When WESTON, in England, put the six days' record at 550 miles, medical experts who observed him there attributed his success to his extraordinary powers of physical recuperation. A few moments' rest would make him another man. This peculiar sort of vitality has done the greater half of keeping the strength of his old age up to the athletic point, and the other half probably has been done by temperance. To the normal man, said a great authority, a drop of alcohol is a drop of deterioration. Alcohol is a powerful and useful agent, but the great athlete is the one who can do without it.

The years which seem to have left WESTON'S strength untouched, have left a beneficent mark, however, on his mind. In the heyday of his professional ca-It was not until 1871 that human eyes, reer he was as cranky and fidgety a unless they belonged to Eskimos, ever saw subject as ever tried a trainer's tact. the northern extension of Grinnell Land. This last and by all odds most extraordinary feat of his, and perhaps of all men, was executed with the calmness of a philosopher. It shows that WESTON regards himself as having passed from the ranks of mere pedestrians, and as having become dedicated to science, which never tolerates passion or excitement, and requires its votaries to think of it and not of themselves. The physical and mental sides of WESTON'S maturity are worthy the study of all men of advancing years.

Yesterday's walk was a highly interesting and useful performance. We congratulate all our fellow citizens on its success, but particularly the distinguised gentlemen at whose earnest request it was attempted. namely, his good Honor the Mayor of New York; Dr. CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW, representing oratory and the great railroad interest: the Hon. E. ELLERY ANDERSON, representing the better element; the Hon. THOMAS L. JAMES, representing the Republican party; and the Hon. JOEL B. ERHARDT and the Hon. THEODORIC ROOSEVELT, representing some thing between ANDERSON and JAMES.

For the Relief of Pennsylvania Hens

Among the many resources of the State of Pennsylvania is a Department of Agriculture, the head of which, the Hon. THOMAS JEFFERSON EDGES, should be reverently set down by the side of the Hon. JULIUS STER LING MORTON. Government agriculture. whether under the patronage of a State or the Federal authorities, is always something to be grateful for. For one thing, it calls forth a vast amount of reports and bulle tins, and benefits compositors and the manufacturers of white paper and ink. For another thing, the writing of these bulletins and reports is a great happiness to the learned persons who write them. We regret that the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bulletin No. 17. on "Diseases of Poultry and the Furred and Feathered Enemies of Domestic Fowls,' did not reach this office in time to be read and approved before Christmas Day. Then, even more than before any other day except Thanksgiving, there is a benign interest in poultry even among those who have never seen a live hen. Yet young students of the science of carving cannot do better than to procure a copy of this work, and master the plates and description of a skeleton of a fowl, apparently some sort of a giraffe. It is well to prepare for New Year's, and even experienced carvers may find valuable hints by investigating the styloid prolongation of the transverse process of the third vertebra, the interorbital septum, the coracoid bone. and the first phalanx of the large digit of the wing.

The learned authors of this treatise in form the public that "the economic status of the Cooper's and Sharp-Shinned Hawks, the Great Horned Owl, and the Mink have been investigated with particular care, and it is clearly proven that they are detrimental." Cooper's, the Sharp-Shinned Hawk,

and the Mink there will be no regret in seeing outlawed; but it is difficult to repress grief at the thought that the economic status of the Great Horned Owl has been found unsatisfactory. The name is a poem; it is unfortunate if this age doesn't live up to it. As the Great Horned Owl's "raids among domestic fowls of all kinds are well known to every farmer," it was necessary, of course, for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to investigate this bird's economic status, and inform the farmers that he was a detrimental. It also informs them that to tell an owl from hawk they must "remember owl's eyes are situated in the front of the head and look forward, while the bawk's eyes are directed to either side." But how is a Pennsylvanian to know a hawk from a handsaw, when the wind is southerly? It seems strange that nothing is said on this point, on account of its Shakespearean if not its ornithological interest, for a poetical bent is revealed more than once in these pages. In particular, the learned writer of the " Preliminary Report Concerning Some Furred and Feathered Enemies of Domestic Fowls" tempers the severity of scientific exposition with the graces of poetic

style. Even in his sub-heads he courts the Muse. Thus he tells us that the wildcat 'hunts the quillful porcupine." But it is when he comes to the gifted animal, enshrined forever in the refrain, "Pop, goes the weasel!" that the inspiration becomes an exhalation. We arrange in vertical prose, but with no other change than the addition of a few capital letters, this Lay of the Weasel or Song of the Stoat: Game larger than himself deters him not, Long runs through bush and briar-he seldom takes

fear to his little heart, as he bounds along in great leaps, or runs with remarkable elerity in search of prey. Not to the land alone does he confine Himself in this search lowever, but in underground passage Made by the rabbit or mouse, and also In the water, his long, slender body On some low bush to carol forth his song Or wet his parched throat at the running brook Quietly on the bough in the hush of the night, Have frequently met their death By the teeth of this little creature."

To the open-carry no

It seems that the technical name of the weasel is Putorius, but he has no reason to sue for libel. The genius of the Pennsylvanta Department of Agriculture has made him sweet with song. This genius is at times a little uncertain in syntax, but always of a tender idyllic cast.

It is a disgrace to England that millions of her subjects in India, who have borne heavy burdens for the glory of the British empire, are left to starve. The compassionate people of Russia, who, under the promptings of humanity, have made contributions for the relief of the sufferers, will surely have a reward in their gratitude.

Mr. ALBERT SHAW, who has attained some reputation as a theorist on social and economio subjects, was quoted in an interview on the gas question in the New York Times yesterday, as follows:

"They [the gas companies] are obliged to earn dividends on capital which has accumulated in the development of the industry, This is not the fault of the public, and the public should not be obliged to pay it. Neither is it the fault of the present stockholders of the gas companies, who have paid the market value of the stock, based on the earnings of the companies t is the fault of the system of corporate organization in this country."

It ought to be a matter of public congratulation that the Populistic basis of the present attack upon the gas companies and other corporations has at last been frankly and adequately stated.

It was in vain that Major McKINLEY sought for rest in Chicago. After staying there a few days, he hastened back to Canton. The right place for the President-elect to take a resi before he goes to Washington is New York. He can find pleasant quarters here where no man will disturb him, if he shall take the trouble to inform Chief ConLIN that he does not want to be disturbed. He can spend the next two months here in philosophic calm, without ever having his door bell rung. Here are the gleaming rivers, the soothing sea, the placid lake, and the reposeful woods in wintry garb.

In the thrilling annals of the United States brave men engaged in it, there is no name more BAKER of Lone Hill, who died on Thursday. Hundreds of men and women owe their lives to this here of the stormy deep. However wild the gale, or high the breakers on the bleak coast, or tempestuous the sea, or black the night, it needed but a signal of danger, a ery of distress or a knowledge that some one was in peril, to stir his soul and cause him to rush to the rescue. His lifeboats were always ready; his oliskins were never beyond reach; his time for patrol duty was measured only by the hours in the day; he was full of resources as of daring; he bore trials that few others could bear; he was ever ready to risk his own life for the sake of that of others; he would ride an ice cake upon which no one else dared to venture; he would climb the rigging of a sinking ship to help any one who had sought refuge there; he would swim out to offer his strong hand to one who was drowning: he was, indeed, an honor to the lifesaving service.

Well may the flag float at half mast on the outer bar of the Great South Bay, and well may the brine in the eyes of the Captain's comrade moisten their bronzed cheeks as they tell the news of the loss of SYMS BAKER of Lone Hill. They say he "caught his death" in rescuing the crew of a schooner stranded upon a treacher ous part of the bleak Long Island coast.

Honor to his name and memory! It was an interesting revelation which w got in a recent Havana letter to THE SUN that the Cuban patriots have frequently procured military munitions by purchase from the officers of the Spanish army. It was stated in the letter that two Spanish Colonels belonging to the garrison at Guanabacoa had been implicated in secret dealings with the revolutionists. The Spanish soldiers," said our correspondent, 'are so hungry and so ill treated that they sell

their cartridges to the insurgents." There are not a few Spanish officers in Cuba who have made money during the war by blackmail, by the plundering of villages, by levying assessments upon planters and manufacturers for protection, and by seiling arms to the ene-

mies of Spain. The Cubans have many times procured military supplies by capturing them upon the battlefield, by buying them from the commanders of Spanish garrisons, and by the help of adventurers who have taken them to Cuba in ships. At all times, in peace or in war, the politica and military agents of Spain in Cuba have made it their chief business to secure riches at the expense of the Cuban people.

When WEYLER shall leave Cubs for Spain. he will take with him the fortune which he has gained by havoc and fraud.

Mr. Guthrie and Edmund Burke.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I impeach W. D. Guthrie as being first, last, and all the time a plagiarist. I impeach W. D. Guthrie as being unworthy to deliver an oration be fore honest people of both sexes, all ages and conditions of servitude. Nor will I let him esape under the pretext of unconscious memory, for his oration was an adaptation too complete of Edmund Burke's speech at the impeachment of Warren Hastings. It's a crime against Choate to employ such an agent. "Bis peccare in bello non licet.'

CHRISTOPHER G. LANGDON.

NOTES OF LEGAL EVENTS.

The reception elven by the Colonial Club or Wednesday evening to the members of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in this clly was attended by a large number of well. known lawyers and Judges, who were treated with the utmost hospitality by their course ous hosts, under the direction of Mr. L. Laftin Rellogg, the President of the club. Mr. Jus tice Peckham of the Supreme Court of the United States, Mr. Wheeler H. Peckham, and Mr. William B. Hornblower were among the guests. Presiding Justice Van Brunt of the Appellate Division here, made a plain, common sense speech, telling what the court had accomplished during the first year of its existence, and giving some account of its methods of work. His remarks indicated that he was not dissatisfied with the change from the old General Term system introduced by the new Constitution. Two of the seven Justices of the Appellate Division in this department will complete their present terms in 1897-Presiding Justice Van Brunt and Judge Pardon C Williams. Both, we should say, ought to be certain of reclection. Judge Williams comes from the Utica district, and presided at the Bat Shea murder trial in Troy.

An important decision in its practical bearing

upon negligence suits is the reversal by the Court of Appeals of the judgment of the General Term in the Fifth Department in the case of Annie Mitchell against the mochester Railway Company. Mrs. Mitchell, while trying to board one of the defendant's cars in Rochester was badly frightened by the sudden and close approach of another car, whose team turned toward her and came so near that when the horses were stopped she found herself standing between their heads. She became unconand was otherwise Ill. The fright she received vas an adequate cause, according to the medical tesimony in the case, to produce there results. The Court of Appeals holds, however, that a plaintiff cannot recover for injuries oc casioned by fright arising out of negligence where there is no immediate injury to the per "If the right of recovery in this class of ases should be once established," says Judge Celora E. Martin, "it would naturally result n a flood of litigation in cases where the injury complained of may be easily feigned with. out detection, and where the damages must rest upon mere conjecture or speculation. The lifficulty which often exist in cases of alleged physical injury in determining whether they exist, and, if so, whether they were caused by the egligent act of the defendant, would not only be greatly increased, but a wide field would be opened for fictitious or speculative claims. To establish such a doctrine would be contrary to principles of public policy." But is it sound judicial doctrine to deny any right of action where it is proved to the satisfaction of a jury that there was a causal connection between the fright occasioned by the defendant's neeltgence and the physical suffering which ensued? There is another side to this question upon which much may be said.

The resignation of Garret J. Garretson on Thursday creates a vacancy in the office of County Judge of Queens county a little sooner than the beginning of Judge Garretson's term as a Justice of the Supreme Court. The County ludge appointed by the Governor will hold office until the end of next year, his successor being chosen at the general election in 1897. County Judges elected after Jan. 1, 1895, in counties having more than 120,000 inhabitants, are prohibited from practising law, by section 20 of Article VI. of the new Constitution. This prohibition will apply to the County Judge of Queens county elected next autumn. and the amount of his salary ought to be fixed accordingly. After he assumes office, the Legislature cannot increase his compensation. In Westchester county the annexation of territory to New York in 1895 reduced the census opulation a little below 120,000, so that County Judge Lent, who was elected since the new Constitution went into effect, still enjoys the privilege of practising in the Supreme Court.

Before the Board of Estimate on Thursday. Mr. Olcott, the new District Attorney, stated that the bills for expert testimony in the case of Maria Barberi amounted to \$10,000, and suggested that it would be better to employ qualiled experts on a fixed salary. This plan would hardly answer, so far as it relates to medical men who are called upon to give opinion ev!dence upon the issue of insanity. The city might very well, however, employ a trained toxicologist, chemist, and pathologist connected with one of our great medical schools to do the analytical work which is necessary from time to time in connection with public prosecutions in the District Attorney's office.

ton, the well-known lawyer, whose interesting reminiscences of his professional life have recently been published that the Code of Criminal Procedure should be so amended as to require the detention in an insane asylum of persons who have been acquitted of crime on the ground of insanity. He would have the statute provide that "the person so acquitted shall be confined in the State Lunatio Asylum for a period of not less than ten nor more than twenty years, and until it shall be proved in manner provided by law that the defendant has been restored to sanity." We see no valid blection to acting upon the presumption that the insatity continues in a person acquitted as insane, and therefore directing his or her detention in an asylum until there found to be sured. To fix a minimum term of ten years' detention in the asylum, however, might keep ne a prisoner there for years after his restora tion to sanity. This would be probably unconstitutional and certainly unjust.

A question of great interest to public officers

who have custody of public moneys has recently been decided by the Court of Appeals in the case of Tillinghast vs. Merrill. The defendant was the Supervisor of the town of Stockbridge, in Madison county. He deposited certain public moneys with a firm of private bankers, who subsequently failed and could pay nothing. This action on his part was found by the trial court to have been in good faith and without negligence, so that the question arose squarely in this suit by the County Treasurer to recover the money, whether the Supervisor was to be held liable as an insurer, or could be relieved by reason of the fact that the loss had occurred notwithstanding the honest exercise of a high degree of care. The rule of the common law appears to have been that an officer not responsible for the loss of public funds in the absence of misconduct or neglect. The Court of Appeals, however, has leclared in favor of a stricter measure of liaility, "which requires a public official to assume all risks of loss and imposes upon him the duty to account as a debtor for the funds in his custody." There is an intimation in the opinion, which is written by Judge Edward T. Bartlett, to the effect that the officer might be excused where it was shown that the money was lost through the act of God or the public enemy, but the general rule laid down by the decision makes the officer practically an insurer. Judge Martin did not sit in the case, and Judge John Clinton Gray dissented.

formers in the courts is the decision by Mr. Justice Keogh in Brooklyn to the effect that the competitive system of appointment is practicable in the case of numerous municipal posiions which the Mayor of Brooklyn has placed in the non-competitive class. Thus far the tendency of judicial decisions has been toward strict enforcement of the civil service section of the new Constitution, a fact which undoubtedly strongthens the political movement in fa or of putting the control of the examinaions in the hands of the appointing power. We have been informed that the constitutional provision was made as far-reaching and stringent as it is, when laid before the convention, with the idea that it would never be adopted by that body in any such form, and that the civil service reformers generally throughout the State would originally have been content with a much milder measure.

A notable victory for the civil service re

The Patriarcha' ball on Monday evening, prepeded by a show night at the opera, made an unusually good beginning for Christmas week Welba in the part-new for her-of Violetta brought all the old timers to the Metropolitan who longed to hear Verdi's tuneful strains as rendered by the queen of sopranos at the pres ent day, and the temptation to display jewels and French gowns in their opera boxes, with a

WHAT IN GOING ON IN SOCIETE.

new arena to come later at the Waldorf, was more than feminine vanity could resist. Perhans the young matrons, who seem to monor olize all the praises and compliments this winter, looked better at the opera than they did at the ball, as they were not brought into comparison with younger and fresher faces, and being seen at longer range, where the tremendous effulgence of their jewels did its work most effectually, they appeared, of course, to the greatest possible advantage. One hundred and fifty couples followed Mr. Elisha Dyer, Jr., and Mrs. Baylies through the

mages of the cotilion, which was admirably led. and was as fair to see as any cotfilon that has ever been watched in New York. The beautiful proportions and exquisite decorations of the ballroom, the mirrors, lights, new music, and glittering jewels and graceful forms of the dancers made a scene that was, to say the least, surprisingly attractive. The young girls, of course, were few or no fewels, but a corps de ballet, where Miss Katharine Duer, Miss Virginia Fair. Miss Madeline Cutting. Miss Bessie Davis, Miss Daisy Post, Miss Evelyn Sloane, Miss Burden, Miss Clews, and Miss Emily Hoffman came prominently to the front, required no aid of ornament to make it charmingly pictureeque.

All the diamonds necessary to give brilliano to the dance were there, however. Mrs. John acob Astor has seldom looked better than she did in green velvet with trimmings of sable and ace and a small diamond coronet on her head. The charm of Mrs. Astor's tollets is that they are always perfectly adapted to the wearer and to the place where they are to be displayed. Her ornaments are never to many or too few. colors are never loud or aggressive, in short harmony is the distinguishing characteristic of this lovely lady's appearance. Very much the same may be said of Mrs. Henry Sloane's costumes. They are always eminently becoming, and even her diamond crown, which is of all ornaments the most difficult for a woman to wear gracefully, is admirably adjusted and fits in its place to a nicety. Mrs. Whitney's, although superb in its collection of precious stones, is too large and heavy, and at a little distance produces the effect of a luminous cap or honnet. radiating light from every point. The arrangement of her other jewels was singularly happy, however. The long strings of solitaires reaching from shoulders to waist, the loops. tags, and constellation of stars were extremely effective.

Not a Vanderbilt was present at either ball or pers, and Mrs. J. J. Astor was the only representative of her husband's family, but even had they all been there. Mrs. Whitney is hardly likely to have been eclipsed in the number and value of her gems. The strangers at the ball, also, were singularly few. Of the foreigners and diplomats who in Mr. McAllister's time lent dignity and importance to the dances, only three or four were present, and, indeed, the first Patriarchs', although it has always claimed to be the great ball of the season, differed scarcely in any way from the first Assembly.

With the coming of the new year the regular eries of dinners, dinner dances, and balls in private houses will begin. Already Mrs. Astor the guests were all married couples, with the exception of Mr. Van Alen and Mr. Perry Belmont. Among them were Gov. and Mrs. Morton, Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Mills, Mr. and Mrs. Gerry, Mr. and Mrs. Whitney, Mr. and Mrs. Stuyveeant Fish, and so on through a long list of agreeable and ornamental men and women Her next dinner will be probably for resebuds and débutantes.

The wedding of Miss Alice Lee Post and Mr. Henry Beadleston at St. Bartholomew's Church on Tuesday was one of the prettiest of the season, owing mainly to the beauty of the bride, who was quite lovely in her bridal finery, and the long string of bridesmaids, who undoubtedly add materially to the picturesqueness of a church wedding. They flutter in and out so prettily, and their faces express such a variety of emotion-sometimes of coquetry, sometimes of concelt, and then again of absolute indifference and a slight degree of boredom at what is going on about them-that it is onlie worth while to watch the maidens while the bride is detained at the altar and the bridgeroom to wishing that he could fly away from the whole thing. There was a breakfast after the cere mony at Mr. Aifred Seton Post's house, when Mrs. August Selmont, who is a cousin of Mrs. Post, looked extremely handsome.

toin Mrs. Seward Webb's house party at Shelburne Farms, where all the Vanderbilt connection assembled to celebrate the festival, or who were not shooting ducks at Currituck or pigeons at West Chester, were entertained at dinner by Mr. and Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs with a vaudeville performance. Afterward, in the large ballroom the same evening. Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Havemeyer presided over their annual Christmas tree for their children and grandchildren. This is always an occasion for the display of great taste and artistic knowlege, and with the gorgeous surroundings of Mr. Havemeyer sumptuous mansion, the effect of fairyland is produced when the tree is lighted.

Next month promises to be gay. Indeed, if the winter is to be productive of anything in the way of dancing functions, it is pretty sure to come in the first month of the year. Mrs. Astor's ball, on the 4th, heads the list. Mrs. Henry Sloane's dinner comes next, and although the card basket shows nothing further, yet Mrs. Bradley Martin can be counted upon to do something spirited, and Mrs. Ogden Mills and Mrs. Frederic Bronson something very exclusive Dinner dances, always a favorite mode of entertaining, will be revived, and before all the world starts off for Aiken and Florida there will have been gayety enough to make cheeks pale and eyes dim and to call up pleasant visions

of golf links and hunting fields. The marriage of Miss Elizabeth Screven daughter of Mrs. John H. Screven, who was formerly Miss Mary Van Rensselaer, to Mr. Ernest Lorillard, will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 5. and that of Miss Maud Delancey Robinso daughter of Mrs. Beverley Robinson, to Mr. William J. Gordon at Christ Church, New

Brighton, on the following day. The engagement of Mr. Edgar H. Richards, eldest son of the late Edgar Richards an grandson of the late James G. King. to Miss Sylvia Fowler is currently reported and generally believed to be true. Miss Fowler is a daughter of the late Theodosius Fowler, who married Miss Mary Russell, and is directly descended from the Depau and De Grasse families.

One of the joillest weddings of the past week was that of Miss Kate Duncan, niece of Mrs. T. Addis Emmet, and Dickson Tharin of Mont gomery, Ala., which took place at the house of Dr. Addis Emmet, which was formerly the homof the bride. Archbishop Corrigan officiated at the marriage service, and the utmost informality prevailed after it was over. Just before the leavetaking of the newly wedded pair a Virginia reel was danced, and the whole affair was a bit of genuine Southern warmth and informality transplanted to the atmosphere of

New York. The wedding of Count de Moltke-Huitfeldt and Miss Louisette Bonaparte will make a stir in Washington, although it is to be conducted in a much more quiet fashion than was at first in ended. But as the marriage is to take place at St. Paul's Church, and Cardinal Gibbons will officiate, crowds may be expected in the streets and at the church door.

New Year's week is always a busy one at the capital, and this year the White House recep-tion of the President and Mrs. Cleveland - which will be the last that they will ever hold will bring together an immense crowd. aside politics and public matters, Washington society cannot but regret the loss of Mrs. Cleveland, who, by her beauty, charm, and simple dignity of character and manner, has fairly earned the title, so often given and so rarely deserved, of first lady of the land.